THE

Chriſtian Hiſtory;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival of Religion in *England Scotland* and *America*.

Saturday DECEMBER 10. 1743. § Nº. 41.

Mr. Robe's *Narrative continued.*

YET without pretending further to account for this *Variety*; The *Fact* is certain that theſe *Convictions* however diverſified, have in many now happily iſſued in true *Repentance* towards GOD, and *Faith* towards our LORD JESUS CHRIST. And now they have many of them attained to Reſt and Conſolation to their wounded and afflicted Souls. And the Method of attaining to this is every way agreeable to the Account that is given hereof in the holy Scriptures; *to wit*, By the humbled and convinc'd Sinner's receiving CHRIST in all his Offices and reſting on him alone for Salvation.

And the Evidences they were able to give of this, are the moſt ſatisfying; *to wit*, an unfeigned godly Sorrow for their Sins, as Ingratitude and diſhonourable to GOD, piercing to the dear SON, and grieving to the HOLY SPIRIT. That now they felt an ardent Love to CHRIST in their Souls, a Delight in him, as KING to ſubdue their Enmity and Corruption, and reign over them, as well as a *High Prieſt* to free them from Wrath and Condemnation. Now Sin was their Averſion and Horror; and to be holy and ſerve GOD their Delight and Endeavour, thro' the Aſſiſtance of his HOLY SPIRIT. Now, they had the Experience of Love to their Neighbours, to all Men. And many of them ſpoke of a Willingneſs, if Duty call'd to it, to lay down their Lives for CHRIST, and to promote the Good of their Brethren.

And how edifying and inſtructing at the ſame Time was it, to obſerve the *Humility* and *Reverence*, the *Teachableneſs* and *Deſire of Inſtruction* with which theſe People ſpoke on all Occaſions. Sometimes melted in Tears when they thought

on what once they were, and were telling what now GOD had done for their Souls. How raviſhing and delightful to hear ſome of theſe happy Perſons ſpeak forth the Praiſes of redeeming Love, and the diſtinguiſhing Mercy of GOD to them. Their *Tongues like the Pen of a ready Writer*, when *they ſpoke concerning the* KING. Speaking in an elevated and exalted Strain their Admiration and Gratitude: the Senſe of divine Love filling them with ſuch Joy *unſpeakable and full of Glory*, as we ſaw, was like to overpower and overwhelm their frail Natures; making them expreſs a Deſire to depart, if it was the Will of GOD, and join the Company of the Redeemed in ſinging Salvation to GOD and the LAMB after the Manner of Heaven.

Surely GOD was in yonder Place, and it ſeemed to be no other than the *Houſe of* GOD, *and the Gate of Heaven*. Many I doubt not can ſay ſo from their ſweet Experience. How greatly are you Sir and your Brethren around you, indebted to the free Grace of GOD, that has made you the happy Inſtruments of ſuch a bleſſed Change. Oh let us ſtill have your Prayers that theſe divine Influences may reach us, and all the Corners of the Land. I ſhall only add, That ſurely *Mockers* and *Gainſayers* of this Work are to be *pitied*. What a mournful Conſideration is it, that ſo many of our ſeceeding Brethren (good Men it is to be hoped in the Main) ſhould yet be found joining the Company of the Profane, in reproaching *theſe Goings of our* GOD *in his Sanctuary*. May the Lord in Mercy open their Eyes, and ſhew them their Miſtakes; and lay a Reſtraint on their Tongues, which ſome of them have opened in ſo daring a Manner. May the LORD endow them with HIS SPIRIT, and particularly with theſe his Fruits in *Righteouſneſs*, *Humility* and *Love*, that ſhine ſo bright in the Perſons they have ſo oddly miſrepreſented. This would be a happy Mean yet of healing the Breach, wide as it is, and uniting us together in the Spirit in the Bond of Peace. This is eaſy for GOD. Has he not done greater Things than theſe even among you? Let us not give over praying for ſuch a deſirable Event. Eſpecially let us continue to pray to GOD, and *give him no reſt till he eſtabliſh and make* Jeruſalem *a Praiſe in the* whole *Earth*. *I am*

Your affectionate Brother, and
Servant in the Lord.

Linlithgow, Nov. 5th, 1743. Robert Spears.

No. II.

No. II. *From the Rev. Mr.* JAMES OGILVIE, *one of the Miniſters at* ABERDEEN, *to Mr.* James Robe.

Rev. and very dear Sir,

ACcording to my Promiſe at parting, this ſerves to acquaint you, that in the LORD's Goodneſs I reach'd this Place in Safety; but much ſooner than I expected to have done, when I left it, which you know was owing to my Rev. Brother Mr. *Blair*'s Indiſpoſition, which made it neceſſary for him and me alſo on his Account to get home as ſoon as poſſible.

Not only my own Inclination, but ſome things alſo in Providence in this City, and the Deſires of many of the Inhabitants here obliged me to undertake a *Journey* to your Country *at no very agreable Time of the Year.* I went that I might witneſs for myſelf, as the LORD ſhould give me Acceſs, and declare to others what he is now carrying on among your People, and in other Congregations in your Neighbourhood. While I was with you, I had the Pleaſure not only of the moſt particular Accounts from yourſelf of this great Work, but *ſpoke alſo with a good many* of your People. Some of them, I muſt own, gave ſuch pleaſant Accounts both of their Diſtreſſes, and Deliverance from them, as fully ſatisfied me, and I believe would do ſo to any elſe, that *the* LORD *has done great Things for them whereof they were glad*, and had juſt Cauſe to be ſo. Their Accounts they gave with ſo much *Thankfulneſs* and *Humility*, as left no Room with me to queſtion their Sincerity. They ſeem'd to be *walking in the Joy of the* LORD, and *in the Comforts of the* HOLY GHOST, giving all the Glory to his great Name, & free Grace, to whom alone it was due; and (to uſe the Words of one of them as near as I can) their only Ground of Doubt was, *If they could believe, that the high and lofty One would ſtoop ſo low as to regard Perſons of ſo worthleſs and ſo vile as they ſtill ſaw themſelves to be.* Others of them are ſtill in Diſtreſs, and refuſed to be comforted, ſo far from ſnatching at theſe too ſoon. It gave me a particular Satisfaction, to obſerve that neither *you* nor *they* laid any Manner of Streſs on thoſe Impreſſions which their inward Joys or Griefs had made on their Bodies: You both agreed (and I think moſt juſtly) in aſcribing theſe to their bodily Conſtitutions; in which you effectually put to Silence thoſe who would reproach this great Work, with being of a Kin to what ſome Years ago appeared with thoſe called *Ca-*

mizars. Every one knows the uſual Effects of *Grief* or *Joy*, on the *Bodies* of thoſe who have theſe in any uncommon Degree. I am myſelf, ſince I left you, as well as before, informed of a good many Inſtances this Way; which would do much were they known, to prevent a good many of thoſe Reproaches which are thrown on this great Work becauſe of theſe. But then, I doubt not in the leaſt, but *Satan* will be ready enough to catch all Opportunities from theſe; and therefore ſhall not queſtion but you will be on your Watch both to *guard* againſt and detect Impoſtures, as well as to be careful to *encourage* thoſe who are truly by Grace reached and awakened.---- Where theſe bodily Diſtreſſes do not proceed from a juſt Senſe of Sin, and its awful Conſequences, and GOD-diſhonouring Nature, or from juſt and ſcriptural Diſcoveries of the great REDEEMER in his Fulneſs and Glory; I would be apt to ſuſpect them myſelf, and to do what I could to diſcourage them with the People, and ſo I am perſuaded will you. If any Thing unuſual ſhould happen to Perſons in theſe bodily Diſtreſſes; (which I hope will in Mercy be prevented) *that* can be no Objection, to any who think juſtly, againſt what may be really the LORD's Work with others. *Satan*'s Intereſt has in your Country I hope by Grace got a great Stroke, and pure and undefiled Religion is advancing; and no Doubt the Malice of that Deceiver, who is ſkilful to deſtroy, will be at Work, and Miniſters cannot be enough on their Guard; and as you are not ignorant of his Devices, ſo I doubt not but your Guard againſt, and Care to detect them will be accordingly.

I ſhall be fond to know, in Return to this, how Matters go with you, and in your Neighbourhood, and to hear of our REDEEMER's growing Victories. I return my hearty Thanks to yourſelf and Mrs. *Robe*, for your Kindneſs while I ſtayed at your Houſe; and aſſure you, that with my beſt Wiſhes to you, and all that's yours, I ſincerely am with great Eſteem,

Your moſt affectionate,
and obliged Brother
and Servant in
our dear Lord

Aberdeen,
Octob. 27*th.* 1742.

JAMES OGILVIE.

No. III.

No. III. *From Mr.* JAMES YOUNG *Preacher of the Goſpel; who hath been here and in other Pariſhes of the Neighbourhood, ſince the Beginning of this Work, and was greatly helpful in carrying it on, both by preaching and converſing with the Diſtreſs'd: Directed to the Rev. Mr.* James Robe *Miniſter of the Goſpel at* Kilſyth.

Reverend Sir,

IN Anſwer to your Demand, I ſend you an Account of my plain Sentiments upon the *Work* that has appear'd in *Kilſyth* and the Bounds around for ſome Months paſt; which, after many Trials and Converſes, I have had with thoſe awakened Perſons, I can't but conſider as a great and glorious Appearance of GOD in his *Sanctuary*, and look on thoſe Places as a *Field which the* LORD *has bleſſed*, and plentifully rain'd down divine Influences upon: Which charitable Judgment I have form'd upon *many Inſtances*, ſome of which I ſhall run over, ſo far as I can recollect them at the Time.

The *moſt Part* of thoſe Perſons have appear'd in great Diſtreſs and Agony of Soul, under a Senſe of their Sins, and Fears of the Wrath to come. And while they have been deeply ſtruck with the Malignity and Demerit, Numbers and Aggravations of their *actual Sins*, as abominable to GOD, and deſerving his endleſs Indignation; They have been led deep into a View of their *original Guilt* and *Pollution*; and abas'd themſelves and repented in Duſt and Aſhes, when they have *look'd to the Rock whence they were hewn, and to the Hole of the Pit, whence they were dig'd:* But eſpecially *Unbelief* in CHRIST and *neglecting the great Salvation*, have been the Chief of all their Sins, as *crucifying the* LORD *of Glory afreſh, and putting him to an open Shame.* And great have their Sorrows and melting their Complaints been upon this Account, looking *to him whom they have pierced and mourning.* To them under ſuch Exerciſes CHRIST JESUS has ſeem'd as *the Chief among ten Thouſand, and altogether lovely*; and the *compleat Salvation* thro' his atoning Blood and Righteouſneſs, and by his ſanctifying Spirit *as the one Thing needful, and all the Deſire of their Souls* --- To ſave not only from *Hell* and *Wrath*, but alſo from *Sin*; to purify their defil'd Natures, and juſtify their guilty Souls; to form them after the *Image* of GOD, as well as to advance them to the *Priviledges* of his Children; and to make them *pure* and *holy* in all Manner of Converſation, and meet for the heavenly Inheritance, as well as to raiſe them to this

this bleſs'd Hope, and receive them at laſt into eternal Life. And how anxious have their Concerns been, and panting their Supplications----" LORD *I believe, help mine Unbelief*-- I am " *ſtout hearted and far from Righteouſneſs*, cauſe me *to incline* " *mine Ear*, give me an *Heart* to *come* unto thee, *that I* " *may have Life*, --- and *make us a willing People, in the Day* " *of thy Power.*

Some have been very Ignorant under the firſt Awakenings, and afterwards thro' the Bleſſing of GOD have made a good Proficiency in the Knowledge of CHRIST, and the Myſteries of his Goſpel: Such have been evidently taught of GOD, and inſtructed by the GREAT APOSTLE and HIGH PRIEST, *who has Compaſſion on the Ignorant, and them that* have gone *out of the Way.*

Others thro' the piercing Impreſſions of their Sins, and ſhocking Terrors of the divine Wrath ſet in array againſt them, and diſturbing their Minds and diſordering their Bodies, could not at firſt, but afterwards have given very rational and diſtinct Accounts of the Grounds and Methods of their Awakenings, ſuch as diſtinguiſh them from being the Reſult of *Mechaniſm* or *diabolical* Influence; who ſince have been ſettled in the Faith of JESUS, and arriv'd at ſtrong Conſolation. Nay, ſome that cou'd not read, nor had been taught to read, being now in old Age; that upon the *firſt Convictions*, have applied to the Means of Inſtruction, and with remarkable Succeſs do grow in the *Knowledge* of CHRIST, as they have come to the *Faith* of him.

I have ſeen ſome *fill'd with all Joy and Peace in believing, and abounding in Hope thro' the Power of the* HOLY GHOST; and when *aſk'd a Reaſon of the Hope* this is *within them*, have been able to *give it with Meekneſs and Fear*, upon diſtinct ſcripture Characters. And *rejoycing in* CHRIST JESUS, They have *no Confidence in the Fleſh*; and *rejoyce with Fear and Trembling, remembring that they are yet in the Body*, diſturb'd with indwelling Sin, and expos'd to manifold Temptations. To ſuch the *Mortification* as well as the *Pardon* of Sin; and Brightening of the divine *Image*, as well as the uplifting of the divine *Favour* upon their Souls; and *Holineſs* and *Joy* in the HOLY GHOST, are the equally ſure Springs of their aſſured Peace, and ſtrong Conſolation. With ſome of ſuch I have ſpoke at other Times, who after ſuch bleſſed Attainments, have ſunk into ſpiritual Diſpondencies, thro' the

Hidings

Hidings of the divine Favour, and the freſh Impreſſions of their Guilt: And while they have been ready to acknowledge the Juſtice of the Diſpenſation, & confeſs & lament their own Sins as the provoking Cauſes of it; have *ſung both of Mercy and Judgment*, and come to this good Aſſurance of Faith in GOD their Saviour, to *truſt in him tho' he ſhould ſlay them, to truſt in the Name of the* LORD *and ſtay themſelves on their* GOD, *from whom comes all their Expectation, and in whom all their Salvation lies.*

I have ſeen ſome *young Ones* under deep and ſharp *Convictions* of their ſinful and guilty State, which they have expreſs'd in very feeling and melting Language: and while they have been early ſeeking *Wiſdom* and her *Ways*, have found *her* and felt *them* to the *Pleaſantneſs and Peace*: The *Love of their Eſpouſals* has been richly recompens'd with *the Conſolations of* GOD, *which are not ſmall*: and having *firſt ſought the Kingdom of* GOD, have felt it in their ſweet Experience to be *Righteouſneſs, and Peace, and Joy in the* HOLY GHOST: *Out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings* GOD *has perfected Praiſe to* himſelf, *to ſtill the Enemy and the Avenger.*

But not to enlarge on more Inſtances, I ſhall only mention *this*, which I have all along obſerved to the Honour of this Work: While ſome have been awakened by reading the Scriptures or ſome devotional Books; others by private converſing with another; others by a particular Recollection of Part of a Sermon heard, ſome Time after; others by being preſent at ſome chriſtian Fellowſhips for Prayer; and many have had a great and ſerious Concern hanging on their Minds for ſome Time, before it has unavoidably broke forth into ſome publick Profeſſion: Yet in the *Preaching of the Goſpel*, the Arrows of *Conviction* have ſtuck deep and ſharp in the Hearts of the moſt Part of them: And if Awakenings have not firſt been produced by this Means, at leaſt they have been encreaſed, and carried on unto a ſound *Converſion* to GOD, and the Faith of CHRIST: *This being the Power of* GOD *to every one that believes.*

Sir, I am glad to underſtand from ſeveral good Hands, that the Goodneſs of their Lives, juſtifies the Truth of their Profeſſions: That beſides their punctual Attendance on, and ſerious Application to the publick Inſtitutions of divine Worſhip, and their frequent and ſtated Obſervance of chriſtian Fellowſhips, as they have Opportunity; they likewiſe have

a ſpecial Care of the Duties of ſecret Devotion, and habitually ſtudy to have *a Conſcience void of Offence, both towards* GOD *and Man*; *and denying all Ungodlineſs and worldly Luſts, live ſoberly, righteouſly, and godly in this preſent World*; making Conſcience of obſerving their ſtational and relative Duties; and attending to both Tables of the divine Law. I pray they may ſtill *adorn the Doctrine of* GOD *their Saviour in all Things*, and *have a Converſation becoming the Goſpel of* CHRIST; *being fill'd with all the Fruits of the* SPIRIT, *which are in all Goodneſs, Righteouſneſs and Truth*; and *being ſtedfaſt, and unmoveable, and always abounding* therein to the End of their Lives; to give a more ſenſible and ſtriking Teſtimony to the Word of his Grace; convincing an infidel and thoughtleſs Generation, that there is a HOLY GHOST attending this Goſpel, whence it is heard *as the Voice of* GOD, and not *of Man*, and becomes *the Power and Wiſdom of* GOD *to the Salvation of thoſe that believe*; and ſilencing the Clamours of others, who raſhly *ſpeak Evil of the right Ways of the* LORD, and diſown the ſtately Steps of his Majeſty in the Sanctuaries of our *Zion*. May the LORD grant you many more Seals of your Miniſtry; that *many may be your Crowns of Joy and Rejoycing* in the Day of his Coming; and ſpread this Cloud of the divine Influences far and wide, ſo that *from the utmoſt Ends of the Earth, Songs of* Praiſe *may be heard, even Glory to the Righteous.* *I am*

Rev. Sir,

Falkirk, Octob. 1ſt. 1742. *Your moſt humble Servant* JAMES YOUNG.

CORRECTIONS *from No.* 20. *inclusively.*

PAge 153, line laſt but 16, read -- unwearied
p. 197, l. laſt but 2, r. -- multiplied
p. 201, l. laſt but 7, r. -- PARK
p. 207, l. laſt but 1, r. -- *Park's*
p. 229, l. 22. r. -- *Anathema*
p. 247, l. laſt but 10, r. -- to ſtrengthen
p. 256, l. 23. r. -- It is obſervable
p. 266, l. 5, 6. r. -- endeavoured
p. 279, l. 2. r. -- their Endeavours.
p. 282, l. laſt but 2, r. -- courting the Favour
p. 289, l. 5. r. -- November 12.
p. 301, l. laſt but 11, r. -- the 2. of the *Acts*;
p. 302, l. 21. r. -- amounts to *ſixty*,
p. 319, Title, r. -- at KILSYTH.